

Virtual Advanced Placement School

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Who can enroll in Virtual AP School courses?

A. Any student may enroll in Virtual AP School courses through his or her school or school division.

Q. Is there a charge for Virtual AP School courses?

A. There is a tuition charge for some courses. Tuition varies by course from \$375 to \$880 per course. Tuition for Virtual AP School courses will be reimbursed to public school divisions for students participating in the Early College Scholars Program. In addition, the Department of Education will reimburse school divisions for the cost of the AP examination for Early College Scholars.

Q. Will the school division be reimbursed tuition charges if the student moves or does not maintain the academic standards set by the Early College Scholars Program?

A. To the extent the school division has paid tuition fees to online course providers for students who met Early College Scholar criteria when entering the courses, the Department will reimburse actual expenses. If a student drops a course or moves during the year, the Department will reimburse school divisions for actual tuition expenses. For example, APEX Learning will refund 80 percent of tuition charges if the student withdraws during the first 14 days of class. In such case, the Department will reimburse the school division the 20 percent of tuition not returned to the school division. Advanced Placement examination fees will be reimbursed separately after payment has been made to The College Board. School divisions seeking tuition reimbursement must verify with the Department participants in the Early College Scholars Program.

Q. Do schools have additional responsibilities?

A. Schools must provide a local facilitator, an adequate study area for distance learning students, access to the Internet, telephone and FAX machine, and purchase textbooks and lab materials or software.

Q. Should students register as a group through the school or individually?

A. Students should register through their schools directly with the course provider and not through the Department of Education. Courses are normally treated as if they are offered by the schools. Grades are transferred from the course provider to the schools. School then assign grades to the students for the courses. For billing purposes, the schools or school divisions should be contacted. Schools may enroll students as a group or one at a time.

Q. Are the televised and online AP courses as rigorous as conventional AP courses?

A. Yes. AP courses offered through the Virginia Virtual Advanced Placement School cover the same content and are just as rigorous as conventional AP courses.

Q. Since the AP exams are given in early May, does this mean the virtual AP courses will end at the same time?

A. Virtual AP School courses follow either a semester block schedule or full-year schedule that ends at the end of May or early June. Courses offered on a block schedule occurring in the fall will have an online review prior to the AP exam. Block schedule courses include online biology, government, spanish, economics, and human geography. All other courses are offered on a full-year basis. Instruction continues through the end of the school year.



Senior Year Plus

Virginia
Virtual Advanced Placement
School
❖❖
Early College Scholars



The Virginia Department of Education does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, disabilities, or national origin in employment or in its educational programs and activities.

Would you like to:

- Earn a full semester of college credit during high school?
- Save as much as \$5,000 in college tuition costs?
- Graduate from college sooner and beat the job rush?
- Reduce your student loan?

High school students can get a head start on college and save thousands of dollars in tuition and interest through Senior Year Plus, one of Governor Mark Warner's Education for a Lifetime initiatives to increase educational opportunities for Virginians of all ages.

Senior Year Plus includes two programs that allow students to get the most out of their senior year.



Virtual Advanced Placement School

The Virtual Advanced Placement School provides a variety of college-level AP courses, enabling Virginia students to earn college credit, regardless of their home high school's ability to offer college-level courses.

Televised and online AP courses available through the school include: English, Government, Calculus, Statistics, U.S. history, Chemistry, Biology, Spanish, Human Geography, Macro Economics, Micro Economics, Psychology, and Physics.

Early College Scholars

Early College Scholars can save thousands in tuition and interest on student loans by earning a full semester of college credit before graduating from high school.

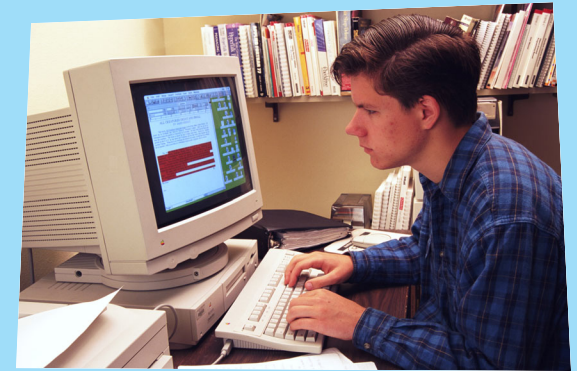
Students become Early College Scholars by signing an Early College Scholar Agreement. To qualify, a student must:

- Have a "B" average or better;
- Be pursuing an Advanced Studies Diploma; and
- Be completing or have completed college-level coursework (i.e., Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Cambridge, or dual enrollment) equal to at least 15 transferable college credits.

Early College Scholars receive a diploma seal and certificate from the Governor recognizing their achievement. Early College Scholars also take courses through the Virginia Virtual Advance Placement School free of charge.

Televised Virtual Advanced Placement School courses offered through the Virginia Satellite Education Network (VSEN) are tuition-free for all Virginia public school students. All courses and tests taken through the Virtual Advanced Placement School are free to students who have signed Early College Scholars Agreements, providing students take the associated AP examinations.

More information about the school, including detailed course descriptions, is available by clicking the Virtual Advanced Placement School icon on the Virginia Department of Education Web site at www.pen.k12.va.us.



Getting Started

The first step to becoming an Early College Scholar or enrolling in the Virtual Advanced Placement is talking with your high school guidance counselor.

Don't delay! The deadline for registering for courses through the Virtual Advanced Placement School is the first week of school. The deadline for 4x4 block courses is the first week of the fall or spring semesters.